



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** October 19, 2012  
**District:** 4 - Oakland  
**Contact:** Allyn Amsk  
**Phone:** (510) 286-5445

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WORK BEGINS TO EASE COMMUTE ON I-80 IN BAY AREA

**ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES** – Work began this morning on an \$80 million technology-laden project to make life easier on one of the Bay Area's busiest commuter corridors, Interstate 80.

When completed, traffic signals on surface streets will be in better synch with onramp meters and computerized highway signs, helping cars and buses better share the road during rush hour. The Interstate 80 Integrated Corridor Mobility Project is the result of a partnership between Caltrans, the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

"We're working together to help people get to work easier and faster," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "This is a good example of how technology can help us make better use of the roads we already have."

The project includes \$66 million in Proposition 1B funds, the voter-approved transportation bond passed in 2006, which are awarded by the California Transportation Commission.

"This project will provide our cities the necessary tools to better manage traffic on our streets when things break down on the freeway," said West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) Chair Janet Abelson.

The project is a cooperative effort between the ten municipalities along the corridor (Oakland, Emeryville, Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole, Hercules, and the unincorporated areas representing Contra Costa County); AC Transit; WestCAT, and the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee.

- MORE -





# NEWS RELEASE

The project also relies on voter-approved local sales tax measures, approximately \$2.8 million from the Alameda County Measure B half-cent sales tax, and \$5 million from the Contra Costa Measure J half-cent sales tax.

“With an investment of \$5 million in Contra Costa’s Measure J half-cent sales tax, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority has leveraged more than \$76 million in state and other regional funds to improve traffic flow and safety along one of the most congested corridors in the Bay Area,” said CCTA Chair Don Tatzin.

The corridor includes I-80 from the I-80/580/880 interchange in Oakland to the Carquinez Bridge, San Pablo Avenue, and the arterials that lead to I-80. The improvements include adaptive ramp metering with commuter bypass lanes at some of the metered ramps; active management of traffic during freeway incidents using variable advisory speed limits and lane management on the freeway and coordinated traffic signal timing on local streets; bus priority at traffic signals and at some metered ramps; enhanced traveler information; and the coordinated operation of all of these components – collectively referred to as the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) project.

“Safer and more efficient and reliable traffic flows along I-80 are essential to the current and future vitality of the Bay Area,” said Alameda CTC Chair Mark Green. “Alameda CTC is working to ensure that county and regional transportation systems will run as smoothly as possible and keep up with demand as the Bay Area’s population grows, using high-tech solutions to increase capacity on our existing roadways. This project means time savings and greater convenience for Bay Area residents and businesses that rely on the I-80 corridor.”

“Drivers will benefit from this innovative use of technology,” said Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi. “When a traffic incident occurs, motorists will be provided with real-time information to help them choose whether to remain on the freeway, choose a detour, or travel to the nearest public transit station.”

To date, the state has allocated nearly \$14.5 billion in Proposition 1B funds for transportation purposes statewide.

###

